

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

✓ Please delete the paragraphs at page 3, line 19 to page 4, line 17.

NE Please delete the paragraph at page 18, line 29 and replace it with the following:

81 ~~In another~~ In accordance with an embodiment ~~In an accordance with an embodiment~~, provided is a method of coupling a first waveguide and a second waveguide, wherein at least one of the first and second waveguides exists within an optical medium. The method includes the step of generating ultra-short laser pulses. Further, the method includes the step of applying a signal to the first waveguide and the second waveguide for measuring an output derived from the first waveguide and the second waveguide, the output being indicative of a performance metric of the first waveguide and the second waveguide. The method also includes the steps of, in response to the measured output, directing the ultra-short laser pulses within the bulk of the optical medium to write a facilitator segment such that the facilitator segment is within an evanescent coupling region of the first waveguide and within an evanescent coupling region of the second waveguide.

NE Please delete the paragraphs at page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 29.